

### **Why does the City of Andover need a Storm Water Utility?**

As land becomes developed, there are few places for storm water to seep naturally into the ground. Hard surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, parking lots and streets all contribute to storm water runoff which makes its way through a storm drain system of ditches, ponds and storm sewer into wetlands, lakes and rivers. As runoff increases so does the cost to manage it, both in water quantity and quality.

Federal water quality regulations mandate that the City of Andover implement and enforce strict water quality management practices to protect the City's water resources. To meet these regulations, the City establish a Storm Water Utility in 2003. The Utility provides a dedicated source of revenue to monitor, manage, maintain and improve the City's water resources and storm water collection systems.

Programs funded by the utility include:

- Storm sewer system inspection, maintenance and reconstruction
- Pond sedimentation maintenance
- Correction of localized drainage problems
- Ditch and culvert maintenance and upgrades
- Street sweeping
- Removal of accumulated sediment from water quantity/quality basins and catch basins
- Federally mandated surface water best management practices and ordinance implementation and enforcement

### **What is a Storm Water Utility?**

A Storm Water Utility is similar to a water, gas or electric utility. The fees you pay are based on what you use. In the case of a Storm Water Utility, what you use (create) is the amount of storm water runoff that leaves your property and enters the public Storm Water System. A Storm Water Utility is an effective method used by cities to pay for monitoring, maintenance and improvements to the storm water system.

### **Who is billed?**

All developed property owners in the City of Andover receive a Storm Water Utility bill. The City has estimated the amount of storm water leaving your property contributing to the City's overall storm water system. The bill you receive is based on the amount of runoff. The fee is NOT based on property value. Residential properties pay a flat rate. Large properties such as businesses, industries, churches and schools with large amounts of impervious surface, such as buildings, parking lots and driveways pay higher fees than smaller properties with less impervious surface. The more runoff, the greater the impact on the City storm water system and therefore, the greater the charge.

Factors affecting your bill are as follows:

- Amount of land you own
- Type of property
- Impervious surface

All properties, including public property, parks, homes, farms, businesses, industries, and tax exempt properties, such as churches and schools will pay a fee. Undeveloped open space will not be

### **How does the Utility benefit the community?**

Having a separate fund for storm water system monitoring, maintenance and improvements will allow the City of Andover to focus more thoroughly on the following storm water related issues:

- Storm water quality monitoring
- Storm sewer and inlet maintenance
- Maintenance of water quantity/quality basins
- Erosion and sediment control
- Wetland protection
- Water quality improvement



1685 CROSSTOWN BOULEVARD N.W. • ANDOVER, MINNESOTA 55304 • (763) 755-5100  
FAX (763) 755-8923 • [WWW.ANDOVERMN.GOV](http://WWW.ANDOVERMN.GOV)

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) and Answers for Storm Water Utility Fee

1. *Q: Why was the fee established?*

A: The fee was set up in 2003. It is result of unfunded, federal mandates being enforced statewide by the MPCA. Cities like Andover are required to abide by these regulations. Andover staff has to increase inspections and enforcement of storm water quality regulations to make sure streets are kept free of sediment and other erosion control measures are in place to protect storm water quality. We have to increase frequency of street sweeping and cleaning and maintenance of the storm sewer system. Because it's unfunded, the City generated the fee.

2. *Q: What is the whole point of this NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) program?*

A: The whole intent is to improve the quality and lessen the quantity of storm water runoff to help protect our high value water bodies like the Rum River, Coon Creek, lakes, wetlands ponds.

3. *Q: What is the fee funding?*

A:

- Street sweeping
- Storm sewer system maintenance and reconstruction
- Sedimentation and ponding maintenance
- Ditch and culvert maintenance and upgrades
- Ordinance implementation and enforcement
- Inspections, enforcement and education
- Environmental improvements

4. *Q: Why should I pay fee if I live in a rural area with gravel roads and no storm sewer?*

A: All property owners in city are paying the fee. The storm water goes somewhere, and impacts some water body, which ultimately will render the need for city maintenance.

5. *Q: Do other cities have a similar fee?*

A: Yes. There are many other cities in metro area that have had to implement same fee to fund these efforts, including Anoka, Blaine and Coon Rapids.

6. *Q: Can I contest the fee if I think my property should be exempt?*

A: Yes. Contact the City Engineering Department if you think stormwater does not run off your property. Contour maps will be evaluated to determine if stormwater leaves or has the potential to leave your property. However, if the maps are inconclusive, the City may require a formal survey or drainage data from an Engineering firm.